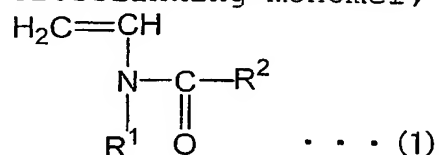


Claims:

1. A seed coating composition comprising a water absorbing resin and a granulating material, said water absorbing resin being obtained by copolymerizing a
 5 monomer mixture containing N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide represented by the following formula (1) and a

crosslinking monomer;



- wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or a phenyl
 10 group, R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms or a phenyl group, and R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different.

2. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the monomer mixture further contains a
 15 copolymerizable monomer which is copolymerizable with N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide.

3. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the copolymerizable monomer is at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic
 20 acid, a salt thereof, (meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropanesulfonic acid, a salt thereof, vinylsulfonic acid and a salt thereof.

4. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the monomer mixture contains the N-
 25 vinylcarboxylic acid amide in an amount of not less than

50% by weight and the copolymerizable monomer in an amount of not more than 50% by weight, the sum of the N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide and the copolymerizable monomer being 100% by weight.

5 5. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the crosslinking monomer is used in an amount of 2×10^{-4} to 10% by mol based on the N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide.

10 6. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the crosslinking monomer is used in an amount of 2×10^{-4} to 10% by mol based on the total of the N-vinylcarboxylic acid amide and the copolymerizable monomer.

15 7. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the water absorbing resin is contained in an amount of 1 to 10 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the granulating material.

20 8. The seed coating composition as claimed in claim 1, 5 or 7, wherein the water absorbing resin is a poly(N-vinylacetamide) crosslinked product.

9. A coated seed to a surface of which the seed coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 has been bonded with a binder.

25 10. A seed coating method comprising coating a surface of a seed with the seed coating composition of any one of claims 1 to 8.